

## PARTNERSHIP FOSTERING COUNTRY COMPETITIVENESS

Today business as well as government faces different challenges and problems because of globalization and growing competitiveness at business environment. Quite often, management of innovations and intellectual property (IP) becomes the main core competence which helps to cope with challenges of global environment. On 21–22 of September speakers from 11 countries (Japan, USA, UK, Germany, Greece, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania and others) shared their experience and visions about partnership during the conference “Business—Science—Government Partnership: Fostering Country Competitiveness” which was organized by International Business School at Vilnius University.

Business society was represented by Global Hitachi, Ltd. Group Chairman for Europe Sir Stephen Gomersall, General Director of Lithuanian Business Confederation Algimantas Akstinas and representatives of Sauletekio Valley and Nothtown. Former member of European Parliament Margarita Starkevičiūtė discussed the country's growth and competitiveness problems. Steinbeis (Germany) international network representative Uwe Haug, Centre of Innovations and Entrepreneurship at University of Göteborg representative Thomas Hedner (Sweden) and President of Vaasa University of Applied Sciences Tauno Kekäle (Finland) brought good practice examples of their institutions and countries.

Hitachi Ltd.—the strategic investor to Visaginas Nuclear power plant—General Manager for Europe Sir Stephen Gomersall believes that business and the country's progress is inconceivable without new knowledge, ideas and abilities to exploit them in practice. Governmental support is essential for successful business and science partnership. World-class Japanese established and managed company activities include information systems and telecommunications, energy, social infrastructure and industry, constructions, high-tech industry. Hitachi Ltd. from the very beginning gives the priority to a strong knowledge base creation, research and social innovations. This company has strong partnership relations with world-class universities such as Cambridge University, Technical University of Delft, The University of Melbourne and others. Sir Stephen Gomersall is disposed to share Hitachi Ltd. experience and to gain local Lithuanian knowledge.

Internal and external relations in Steinbeis enterprises concerning knowledge and technology transfer were detailed in the report by Mr. **Uwe Haug**, Managing Director R & D, Steinbeis-Foundation, international network (Germany) (cf. the scheme below).



- Rethink Intellectual Property (IP) management system and to create clear IP management mechanisms, as current system can do nothing else than create uncertainties and chaos, and will certainly be problem for Lithuania in the future;
- Starting from simple entrepreneurship and new ideas competitions to implement the whole technology transfer/value transfer system;
- Create the strategy which would be attractive local researchers and to the researchers from EU. It would help to stop a brain drain and to attract researchers from abroad.

The conference was a strategic step to set up and organize the vital and essential elements for the business, science and government partnership system. Materials of the conference were published electronically and distributed.

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